



FY 2004 President's Request

Climate Change Research Initiative

Climate Change Science Program Office

Addresses

NOAA Mission Goal #2

Understand
climate variability
and change to
enhance society's
ability to plan and
respond

What is requested?

NOAA requests an increase of 8 FTE and \$1.1 million to support the initiation of an interagency Climate Change Science Program Office to support our Nation's interagency climate and global change program, including the implementation of the President's Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI). The initiative is a cooperative effort among 11 Departments and Agencies and two Presidential offices.

Why do we need it?

The Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), formed by President Bush in February of 2002, oversees and coordinates the Climate Change Research Initiative (CCRI) and the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP). The CCSP Office is necessary for coordinating action to ensure that research planned and implemented across the departments and agencies supports agreed-upon scientific objectives, and to provide usable, science-based products as tools for policy and management decisions.

The CCSP builds upon the efforts of the USGCRP, which was created in 1989 to address key uncertainties about changes in the Earth's global environmental system, both natural and human-induced; to monitor, understand, and predict global change; and to provide a sound scientific basis for national and international decision-making. Responsibility for implementation of different components of the research program is distributed across 11 federal departments and agencies, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy. The basic rationale for this distributed organization is that the issues of climate and global change are complex and wide-ranging, and thus extend beyond the mission, resources, and expertise of

Climate Office At-a-Glance

What: \$1.1 M increase
Why: The CCSP Office will coordinate climate research across the departments, and will provide usable, science-based products as tools for policy and management decisions.

Office of Oceanic & Atmospheric Research, Climate Change Research Initiative



any single agency. Since its inception, the USGCRP has strengthened research on global environmental change and fostered insight into the processes and interactions of the Earth system, including the atmosphere, oceans, land, frozen regions, plants and animals, and human societies.

President Bush established the CCRI in June of 2001 to measurably improve the integration of scientific knowledge, including measures of uncertainty, into effective decision support systems and resources. The CCRI promotes the effective use of scientific knowledge in policy and management decisions, and continual evaluation of management strategies and choices. To be included in the CCRI, a program must produce significant decision or policy-relevant deliverables within a short time frame.

What will we do?

The Department of Commerce, as the lead agency for CCRI, will establish the CCSP Office with a broad capability in physical and social sciences to ensure that the benefits of scientific research are applied to climate change policy issues and decision support. To accomplish the integration of USGCRP and CCRI activities, the Interagency Climate Change Science Program has assumed oversight of both programs, with a single interagency committee responsible for the entire range of science projects sponsored by both programs. The interagency program retains the responsibility for compliance with the requirements of the Global Change Research Act of 1990, including its provisions for annual reporting of findings and short-term plans, scientific reviews by the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council, and periodic publication of a 10-year strategic plan for the program.

What are the benefits?

The establishment of the Climate Change Science Program Office will enable coordinated programmatic decisions for the CCRI. It will also encourage direct application of science products to support climate-related activities such as alternative energy strategies, climate change adaptation, and ranges of emissions scenarios. Examples of such products include climate scenarios and carbon source/sink distributions. The CCSP aims to balance the near-term (two- to four-year) focus of the CCRI with the breadth of the USGCRP, pursuing accelerated development of answers to the scientific aspects of key climate policy issues, while continuing to seek advances in the knowledge of the physical, biological and chemical processes that influence the Earth system.

For more
information:

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FY 2004 Proposed Climate Change Research Initiative Program Components:

- Global Ocean Observing System
- Carbon Cycle Atmospheric Observing System
- Aerosols
- Climate Change Science Program Office
- Climate Change Computing Initiative



Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
Climate Observations and Services
Climate Change Science Program Office

NOAA Budget
FY 2004
Change

CCSP Office \$1.1M